

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 MC-02 /065 W

----- 096696

R 201735Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4749

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR NATO

SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE SLICE XXVI

REF: USNATO 6141, DTG 121300Z NOV 75

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN MEETING OF 18 NOV 75, THE INFRASTRUCURE COMMITTEE HEARD A FRENCH ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SELECTED AIR DEFENSE PROJECTS AND GAVE FINAL CLEARANCE TO ITS DRAFT REPORT TO THE DPC. TURKS INDICATED THEY MAY LIFT THEIR RESERVATION ON SLICE XXVI BUT GERMANY AND ITALY REMAIN FIRM. DPC ACTION NOW SET BACK TO MID DECEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THIS DISCUSSION ON SLICE XXVI WAS TO HEAR THE FRENCH POSITION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THEIR PARTICIPATION IN AIR DEFENSE PROJECTS. THE FRENCH REP (MAJOR LELONG) OPENED WITH THE USUAL FRENCH COMPLAINT THAT THE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING PROCEDURES HAD NOT GIVEN THE GOF SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP A POSITION. NEVERTHELESS,

FRANCE COULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS UNDER THE WARNING INSTALLATIONS CATEGORY: SERIAL 278 (FRG), SERIALS 279 AND 280 (ITALY), SERIALS 283 AND 284 (TURKEY), AND SERIALS 287, 288, AND 291 (ACE AREA). FRANCE DOES NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REMAINING THREE PROJECTS- SERIAL 272 (NORWAY) AND SERIALS 285 AND 286 (UK).

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES, THE FRENCH REP EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR BASIC PROBLEM FOR SLICE XXVI WAS FINANCIAL AND ADDED OFF THE RECORD, REPEAT, OFF THE RECORD, THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES IN PARIS THAT FRANCE WOULD PROBABLY PARTICIPATE IN THE ENTIRE WARNING INSTALLATIONS CATEGORY IN FUTURE SLICES. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF AN OVERALL LONG TERM PLAN AND THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO PARTICIPATE ON THE BASIS OF SUCH A PLAN WHICH HE SAID MIGHT BE A QUOTE NADGE II UNQUOTE.

3. THE BELGIAN REP (DUCOFFRE) RESTATED IN STRONG TERMS THE BELGIAN POSITION THE LACK OF A COMPREHENSIVE SHAPE AIR DEFENSE PLAN. HE SAID THAT SHAPE IS NOW PAYING THE PENALTY FOR THEIR FAILURE TO PREPARE A GENERAL PLAN IN THAT THIS PLANNING SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE IN 1967 OR 1968. HE SAID THAT THE PLAN WILL HAVE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY NATION BEFORE BELGIUM CAN CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR SLICE XXVI AIR DEFENSE PROJECTS. HE SUPPORTED THE FRENCH VIEW THAT AIR DEFENSE IN GENERAL REQUIRES THE SAME SPECIAL PLANNING ATTENTION THAT WAS GIVEN TO THE NADGE, AND STATED THE THREE BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF HIS AUTHORITIES- A LONG TERM PLAN, THE GROUPING OF CONTRACTS, AND A PRODUCTION SHARING FORMULA.

4. US REP (LOVELAND) EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FRANCE COULD JOIN THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN TRYING TO DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIS THAT SHAPE USES FOR AIR DEFENSE PROGRAMMING. HE SAID THAT THE US COULD NOT AGREE WITH ALL POINTS OF THE BELGIAN POSITION, IN PARTICULAR A RIGID PRODUCTION SHARING CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMULA, BUT HE DID AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FUNDING OF THE SLICE XXVI PROJECTS UNTIL SHAPE HAS PROVIDED MORE INFORMATION. TURNING THEN TO THE FRENCH POSITION HE REMINDED THE FRENCH REP THAT NON-PARTICIPATION IN FUNDING OF CERTAIN PROJECTS MEANS NON PARTICIPATION IN CONTRACTS FOR THOSE PROJECTS. HE REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO THE UK-NADGE OF WHICH THE SLICE XXVI PROJECTS WERE ONLY THE LEADING EDGE. HE SAID IT SEEMED INEVITABLE THAT NATO WOULD BECOME COMMITTED TO A SPECIFIC TECHNICAL APPROACH WITH ACQUISITION OF THE FIRST TWO OR THREE UK STATIONS.

5. THE FRENCH REP RESPONDED THAT THEIR POSITION ON THE UK AND NORWEGIAN PROJECTS (SERIALS 272, 285 AND 286) WAS FIRM

FOR 1976. IN ADDITION TO THE LACK OF PLANNING INFORMATION THEY ALSO DID NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT PROBABLE COSTS. HE NOTED HOWEVER THE SUGGESTION BY THE US REP THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY NATO COULD GO TO CONTRACT ON THOSE THREE PROJECTS BEFORE 1977 AND THEREFORE THERE WOULD BE NO REQUIREMENT FOR FUNDS IN THE 1976 TIME FRAME.

6. SUBJECT TO A FEW MINOR CORRECTIONS THE COMMITTEE GAVE FINAL CLEARANCE TO ITS DRAFT REPORT TO THE DPC. THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT IN ORDER TO COVER FRENCH PARTICIPATION, IT WOULD REQUEST NAC APPROVAL UNDER THE SILENCE PROCEDURE. THE IMS REP (COL JOHNSON,UK) REPORTED THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF SLICE XXVI BY THE SILENCE PROCEDURE WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL 1 DECEMBER 1975. THUS IT WILL NOW BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE DPC TO CONSIDER SLICE XXVI UNTIL 17 DECEMBER 1975, ITS FIRST MEETING AFTER THE MINISTERIAL.

7. SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES JOINED INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (SMITH, US) IN A LAST EFFORT TO AVOID TAKING SLICE XXVI TO THE DPC UNDER THE ITALIAN, TURKISH AND GERMAN RESERVATIONS. THE SHAPE REP (COL TURNER UK) REFERRING TO THE GERMAN POSITION ON SERIAL 237, POINTED OUT THAT THE GERMAN MILREP HAD REFRAINED FROM PLACING A RESERVATION ON SLICE XXVI. HE SAID SHAPE WAS STUDYING THE IMPLICATIONS OF FUNDING REQUIREMENTS CREATED BY NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND ASSURED THE COMMITTEE THAT SHAPE WOULD CONSIDER SERIAL 237 FOR PROGRAMMING IN A LATER SLICE, ALONG WITH OTHER DEFERRED PROJECT. TURNING THEN TO THE ITALIAN RESERVATION
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THE SHAPE REP SUGGESTED THAT ITALY MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THE ABNORMALLY LARGE NUMBER OF ITALIAN PROJECTS IN THE SLICE XXVII PROGRAM AND THE 20PCT OF SLICE XXV TO BE SPENT IN ITALY BEFORE CARRYING THEIR COMPLAINT ABOUT SLICE XXVI TO THE DPC. NEITHER THE GERMAN REP (SHATTENBERG) NOR THE ITALIAN REP (GIAMMARCO) WAS IN A POSITION TO RESPOND. THE TURKISH REP (YAKIS) STRUCK A MORE HOPEFUL NOTE. HE REPORTED THAT TRUKEY HAD PROVIDED TO SHAPE CONFIRMATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT TO NATO OF TWO NEW SQUADRONS. IF SHAPE WERE ABLE TO GIVE ASSURANCE THAT THE ANTALYA FACILITIES WOULD BE PROGRAMMED IN A FUTURE SLICE, TURKEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO LIFT ITS RESERVATION.

MISSION COMMENT: WE ARE VERY MUCH ENCOURAGED BY THE TONE OF THE FRENCH INTERVENTION, PARTICULARLY THE OFF RECORD INDICATION THAT FRANCE MAY BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENTIRE AIR DEFENSE (WARNING INSTALLATIONS) CATEGORY IN FUTURE SLICES. WE HOPE THIS MAY BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD SOME MEANINGFUL LEVEL OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE LATER PHASES OF THE NICS. CONCERNING THE ITALIAN AND GERMAN RESERVATIONS WE SHALL ENCOURAGE THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND SHAPE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE ITALIANS AND GERMANS TO LIFT THEM BEFORE THE DPC TAKES UP SLICE XXVI. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO06359
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 . GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751189/abbrznht.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 6141, DTG 121300Z NOV 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFRASTRUCTURE SLICE XXVI
TAGS: MARR NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE

ANKARA
BONN
PARIS
ROME

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006